

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for dispensing a liquid, comprising:

a dispensing end, an adaptor end, and an elongate dispenser body extending
therebetween, said dispenser body having a first major surface extending to said
dispensing end, said dispenser body defining a fluid reservoir opening on said first
surface, said fluid reservoir for receiving a fluid to be dispensed, said dispenser body
further defining a first elongate open channel opening on said first major surface and
extending between said fluid reservoir and said free end of said dispenser body.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said dispenser body includes a second major
surface opposite said first major surface, said dispenser body defining a second fluid
reservoir opening onto said second major surface for receiving the fluid to be
dispensed and a second elongate channel extending between said second fluid
reservoir and said free end of said dispenser body.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second channels are shaped such that
the fluid to be dispensed is conducted into said channel by capillary action

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said first fluid reservoir communicates with said
second fluid reservoir through said dispenser body.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said dispensing end of said dispenser body comprises a substantially planar strike surface.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said strike surface extends substantially
5 orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of said dispenser body.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said strike surface defines a dispense end of said first channel.

10 8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said first major surface depends from said strike
surface.

9. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first channel opposes said second channel.

15 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first channel is further defined between first
and second elongate channel side walls.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first and second channel side walls extend transversely-spaced across said channel.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first and second channel side walls define a V-shape.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said free end of said dispensing body includes a non-planar strike surface.

14. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said dispensing body further comprises a tapering surface extending between said strike surface and said first major surface.

15. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said dispensing body is substantially planar.

16. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said dispensing body extends between said first and second reservoirs.

17. The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the body is approximately 0.001 inch to approximately 0.050 inches thick as measured between said first and second major surfaces.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contact area has a surface area ranging from approximately 1×10^{-7} square inches to 1×10^{-4} square inches.

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reservoir comprises a depressed area on the first side of the body.

20. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said reservoir tapers continuously to form said first channel.

21. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein liquid is retained within the reservoir by surface tension.

5 22. An apparatus for dispensing a liquid, comprising:

a plurality of dispensing pens having a liquid to be dispensed upon striking each said dispensing pen upon a surface;

a dispensing pen manifold, said dispensing pen manifold including a plurality of cantilever arms for independently supporting said plurality of dispensing pens.

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23. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each of said plurality of cantilever arms further comprises a manifold base and a pair of transversely-spaced elongate beams extending from said manifold base.

15 24. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each said cantilever arm supports a dispensing pen through at least one of said elongate beams extending from said base.

20 25. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each of said elongate beams extending from said base are adapted to support one of said dispensing pens therethrough.

26. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each of said first beams extend between said respective base and a common first anchor.

27. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each of said second beams
5 extend between their respective base and a common second anchor.

28. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 22, wherein each of said dispensing pens further comprises a dispensing pen of claim 1.

10 29. An apparatus for dispensing a liquid, comprising:
an elongate dispensing body having a first free end including a strike tip, said dispensing body also defining a fluid reservoir for receiving a fluid to be dispensed and a fluid channel for conducting the fluid to be dispensed between said strike tip and said fluid reservoir.

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30. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 29, wherein said strike tip includes a strike surface defining a dispense aperture in fluid communication with said fluid channel.

20 31. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 30, wherein said strike surface is substantially planar.

32. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 30, wherein said strike surface further comprises an annular rim about said spotting aperture.

5 33. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 30, wherein said strike surface is substantially non-planar.

34. The apparatus for dispensing a liquid of claim 30, wherein said strike surface extends substantially orthogonal to the axis of the dispensing body.

10 35. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said adaptor end further comprises a unitary spring member.

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